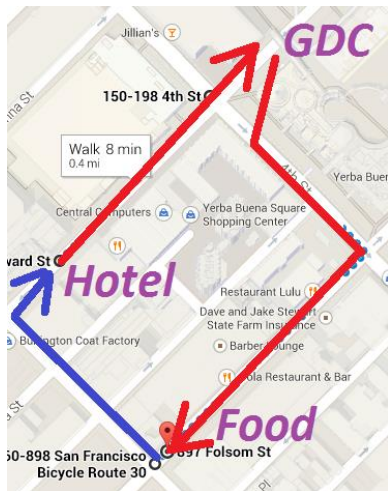


Working With 3D Rotations

Stan Melax

Graphics Software Engineer, Intel

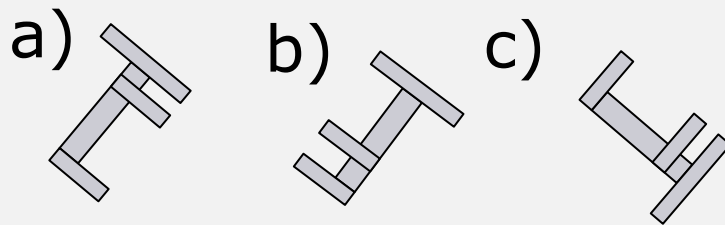
Human Brain is wired for Spatial Computation



*"I don't need to ask
for directions"*

Translations

Which shape
is the same:



A childhood IQ test question

Rotations

Agenda

- Rotations and Matrices (*hopefully review*)
- Combining Rotations
- Matrix and Axis Angle
- Challenges of deep Space (of Rotations)
- Quaternions
- Applications

Terminology Clarification

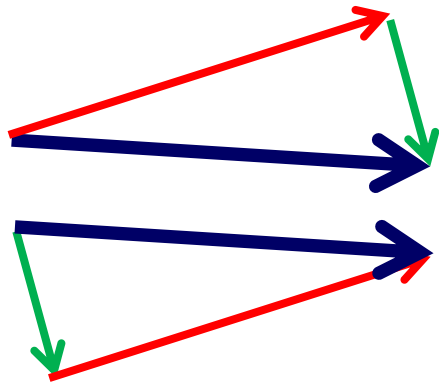
Preferred usages of various terms:

	Linear	Angular
Object Pose	Position (point)	Orientation
A change in Pose	Translation (vector)	Rotation
Rate of change	Linear Velocity	Spin

also: *Direction* specifies 2 DOF, *Orientation* specifies all 3 angular DOF.

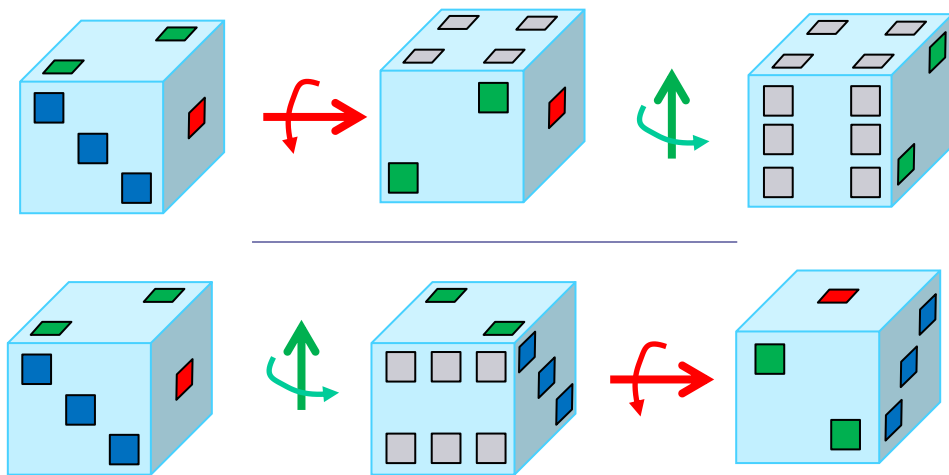
Rotations Trickier than Translations

Translations



a then b == b then a

Rotations

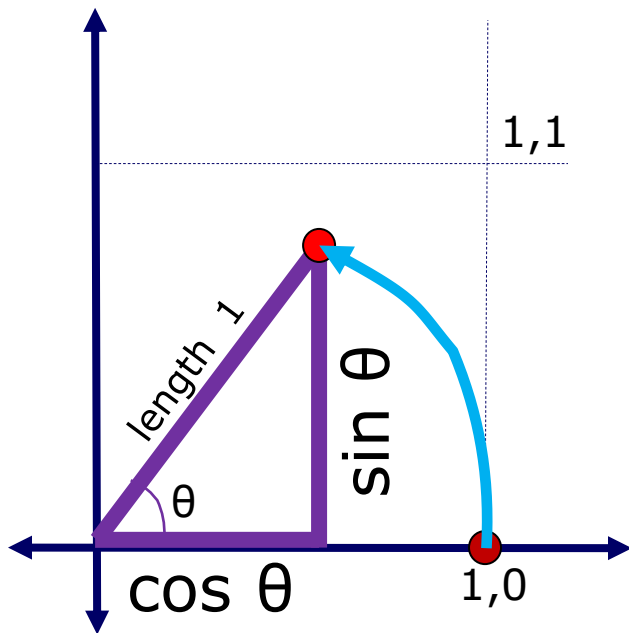


x then y != y then x
(non-commutative)

- Programming with rotations also more challenging!

2D Rotation θ

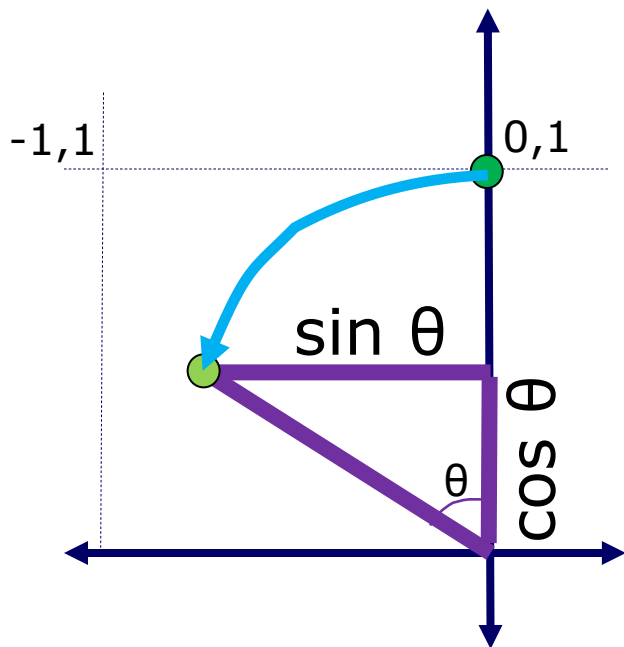
Rotate $\bullet [1 \ 0]$ by θ about origin



$$\bullet [\cos(\theta) \quad \sin(\theta)]$$

2D Rotation θ

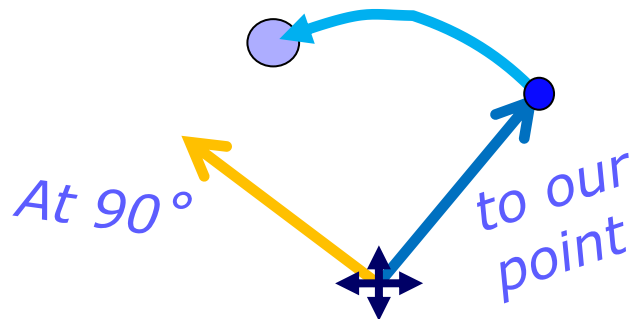
Rotate $\bullet [0 \ 1]$ by θ about origin



$$\bullet [-\sin(\theta) \ \cos(\theta)]$$

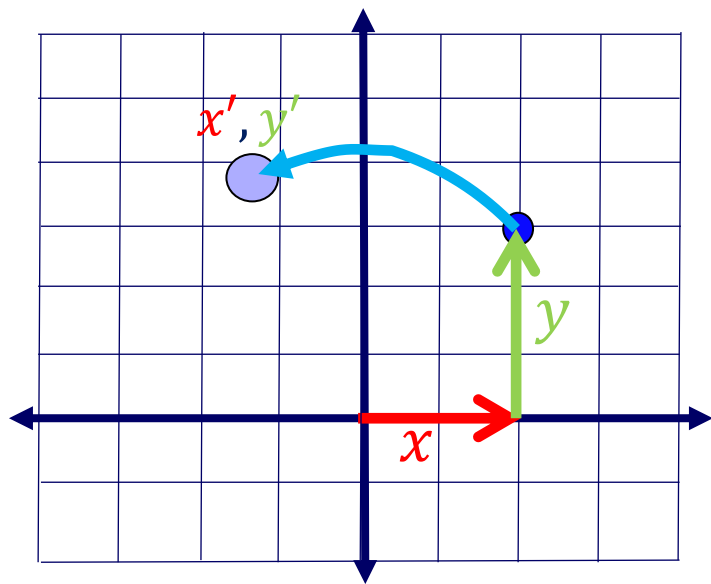
2D Rotation of an arbitrary point •

Rotate • about origin by θ



$$\text{•} = \cos \theta \nearrow + \sin \theta \nwarrow$$

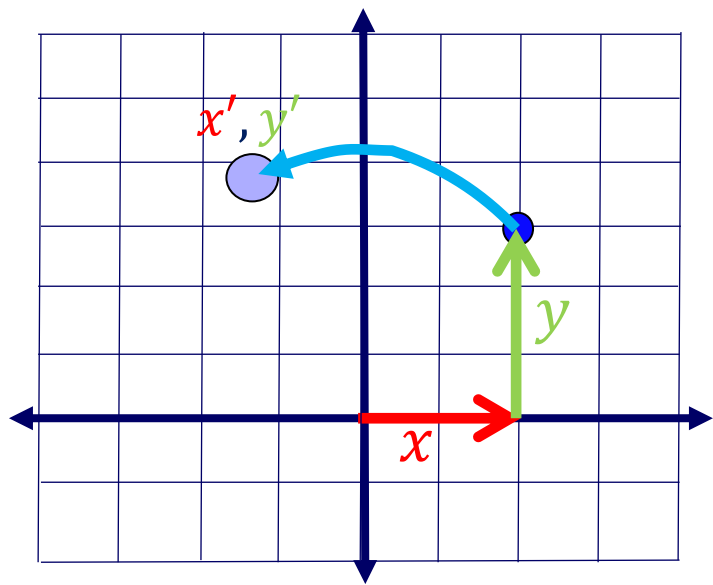
2D Rotation of an arbitrary point



Rotate $\bullet \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$ about origin by θ

$\bullet \begin{aligned} x' &= x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta \\ y' &= x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta \end{aligned}$

2D Rotation Matrix



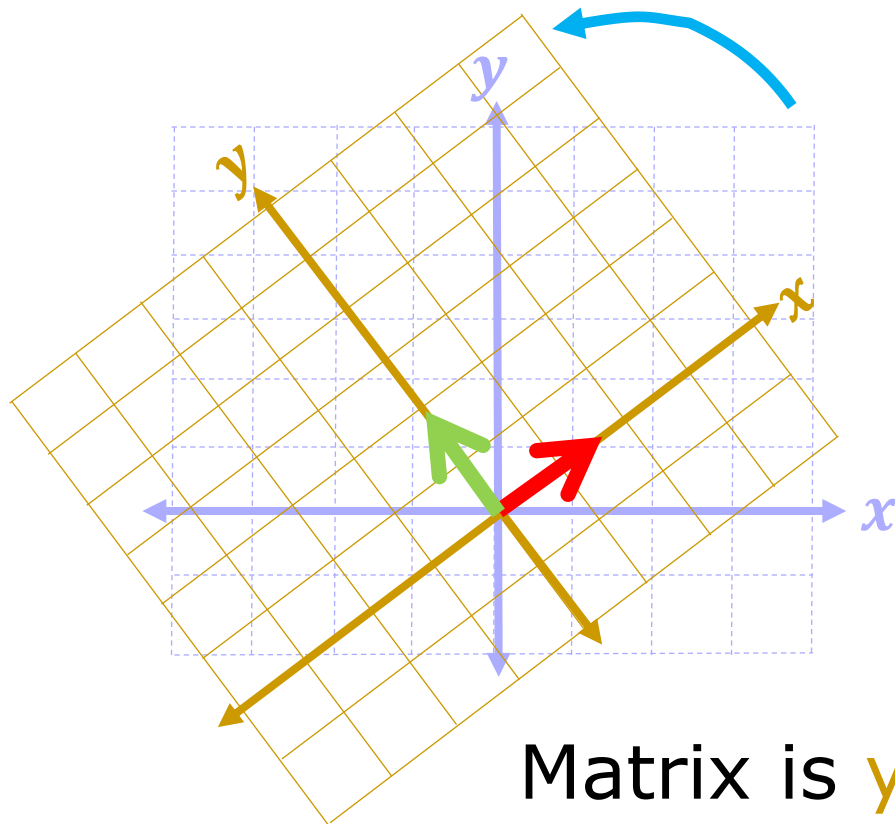
Rotate $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$ about origin by θ

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta \\ y' &= x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix $\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$ is rotation by θ

2D Orientation



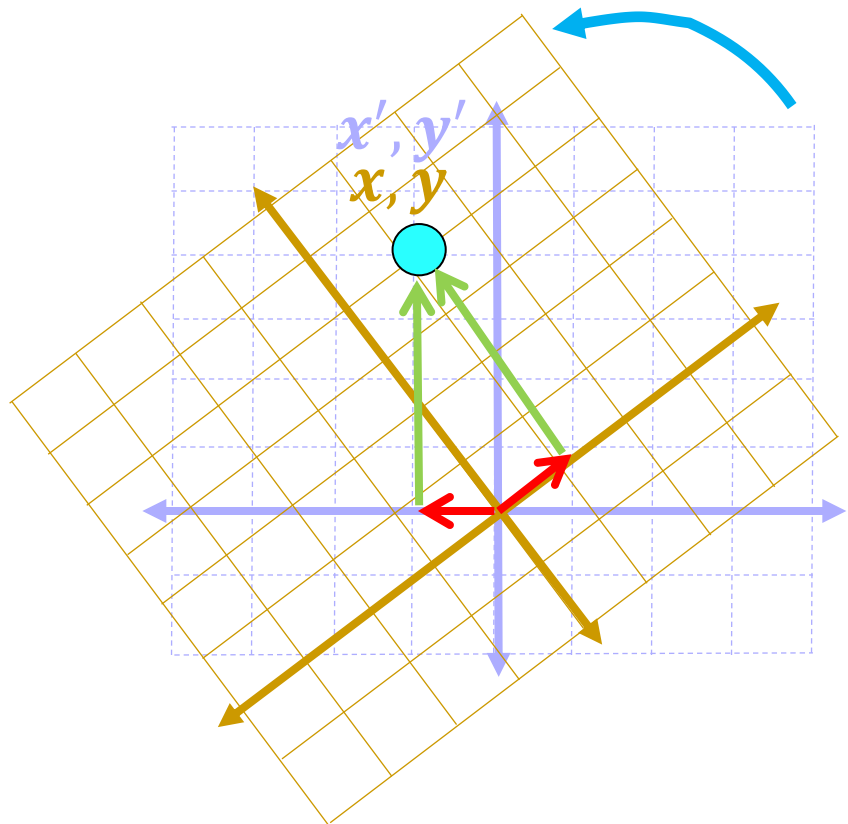
Yellow grid placed over first grid but at angle of θ

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

Columns of the matrix are the directions of the axes.

Matrix is yellow grid's Orientation

2D Passive Transformation



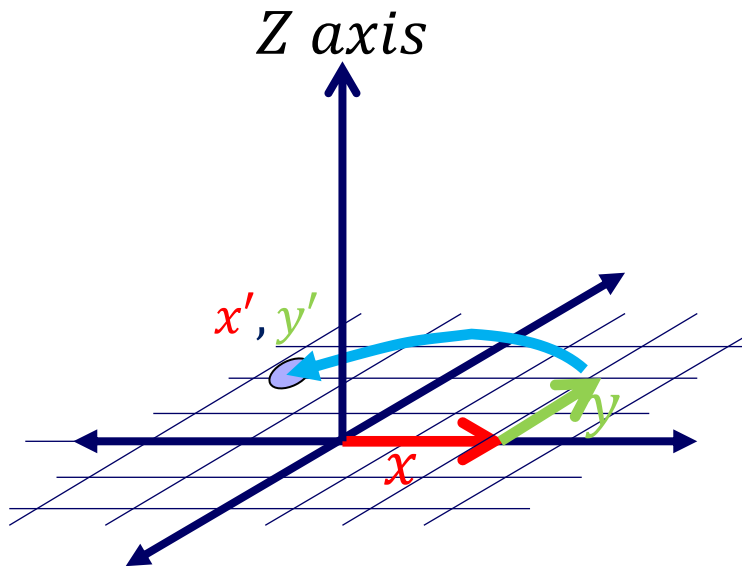
$$\text{Basis: } \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

(note: exact same math as before)

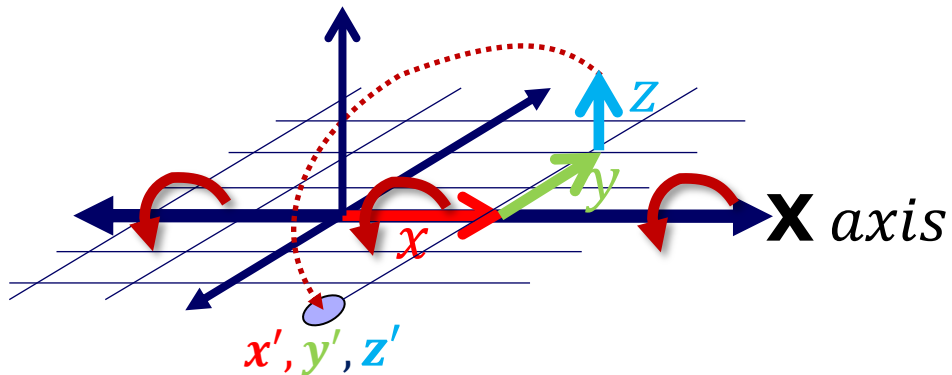
$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$ both same point but
In different reference frames

3D Rotation around Z axis

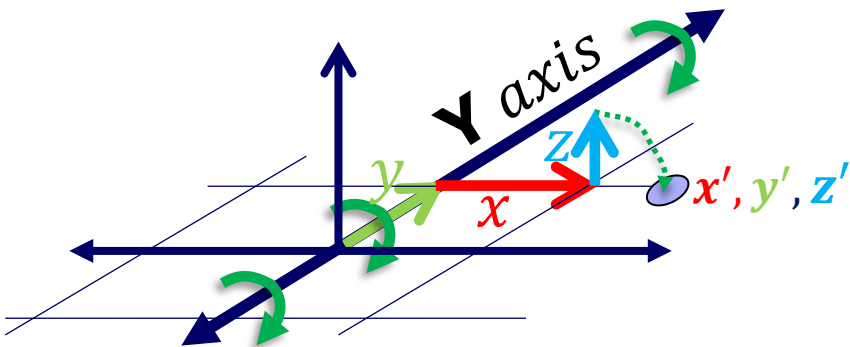


$$\bullet \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

Can Rotate around X and Y too



$$\bullet \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$



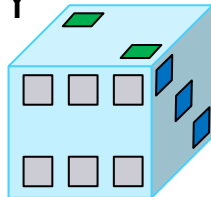
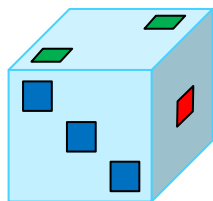
$$\bullet \begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & \sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

Rotating Objects (changing orientation)

Rotations:

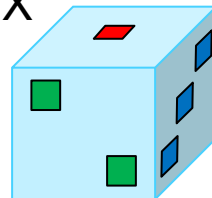
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

90° on Y



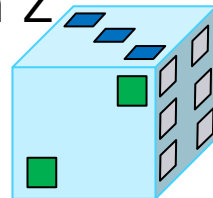
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

90° on X



$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

90° on Z



Orientations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrices used for both rotations and orientations

Quat rotations:

[0 .7 0 .7]

[.7 0 0 .7]

[0 0 .7 .7]

orientations:

[0 0 0 1]

[0 0 .7 .7]

[.5 .5 .5 .5]

[0 .7 .7 0]

Row vs Column Conventions

OpenGL and most math books use column vectors:

$$\mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{M} \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{B} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}$$



Some engines, APIs (DirectX) use row convention:

$$\mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{v} \mathbf{M}^T = \mathbf{v} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{B}^T$$

All the same.

Combining Rotations

Combine a sequence of Rotations **A, B, ...**

Rotate **v** by **A**, then **B**, then **C**...

$$= \mathbf{C} (\mathbf{B} (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{v}))$$

Mathematically we know

$$\mathbf{C} (\mathbf{B} (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{v})) == (\mathbf{C} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{v}$$

So with matrix-matrix multiplication let:

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{C} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{A}$$

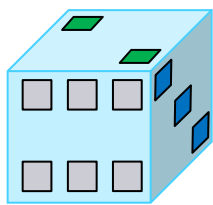
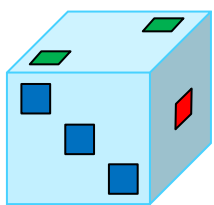
R is a single rotation that is the same as rotating by **A**, then by **B** then **C**.

Multiplication Order:

W
O
R
L
D

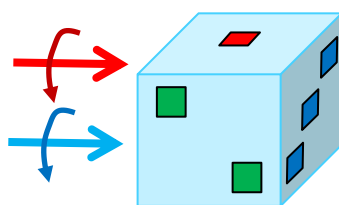
90° on
World Y

A_{world}



90° on
"World" X

B_{world}

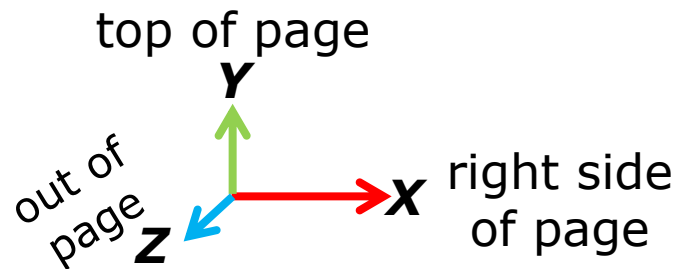
L
O
C
A
L

A_{local}

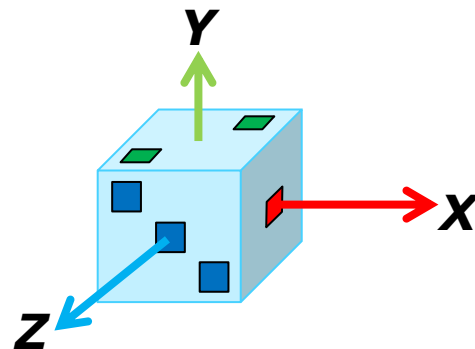
90° on
Local Y
(dice side 2)

B_{local}

90° on
"Local" Z
(dice side 3)



World Coordinate Frame

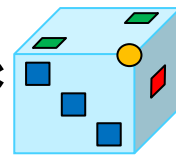
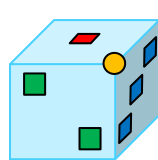
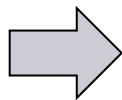
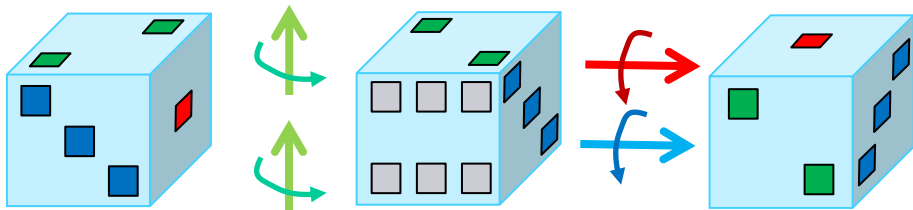


Dice Coordinate Frame

Multiplication Order:

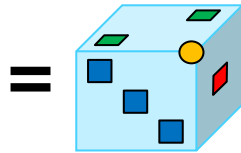
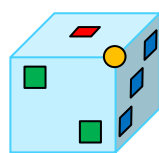
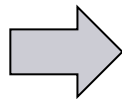
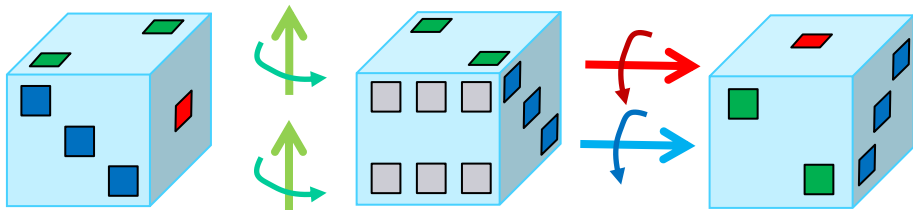
Math Equations

WORLD

90° on
World Y90° on
"World" X A_{world} B_{world} 

$$dice_{new} = B_{world} * A_{world} * dice$$

LOCAL

 A_{local} 90° on
Local Y
(dice side 2) B_{local} 90° on
"Local" Z
(dice side 3)

*



*

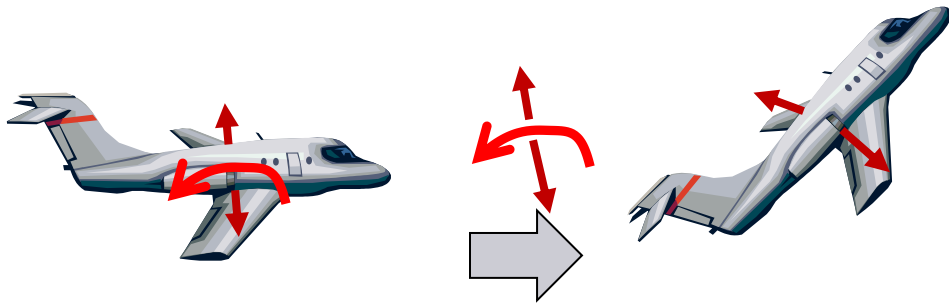


$$dice_{new} = dice * A_{local} * B_{local}$$

Both produce: 120° on [1 1 1] →

Example When to use Local frame

- Player “pulls up” on flight stick.
- Pitch upward about object wing (**x**) axis.
- World **x** irrelevant
- Multiply rotation (about **x**) on the right hand side



Math:

$$\text{climbing orientation} = \text{cruising orientation} * \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$

climbing orientation = *cruising orientation* * *pitch_up rotation*

Sidenote: a point doesn't have an orientation, so never do this for points.

Find Rotation ***R*** Between Orientations ***A*** and ***B***

need to be more specific

- Have an object with orientation ***A***, what rotation ***R*** will change it to have orientation ***B***?

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^{-1}$$

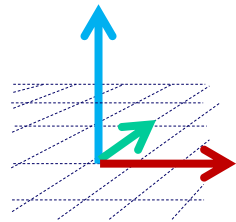
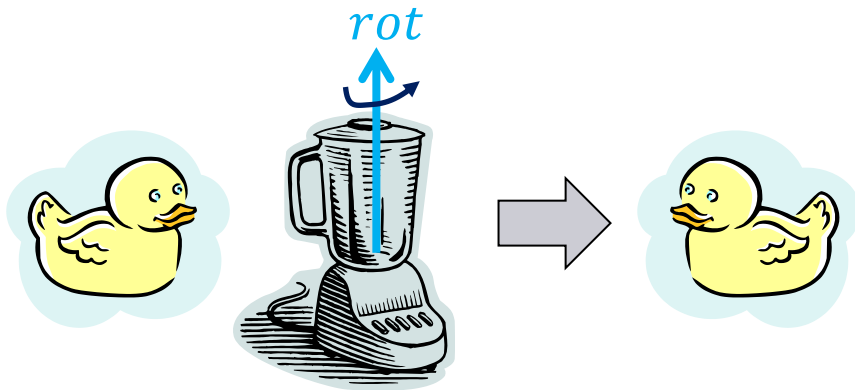
- Given a direction v in reference frame ***A***, what rotation ***R*** will show how v points according to ***B***?

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{B}^{-1}\mathbf{A}$$

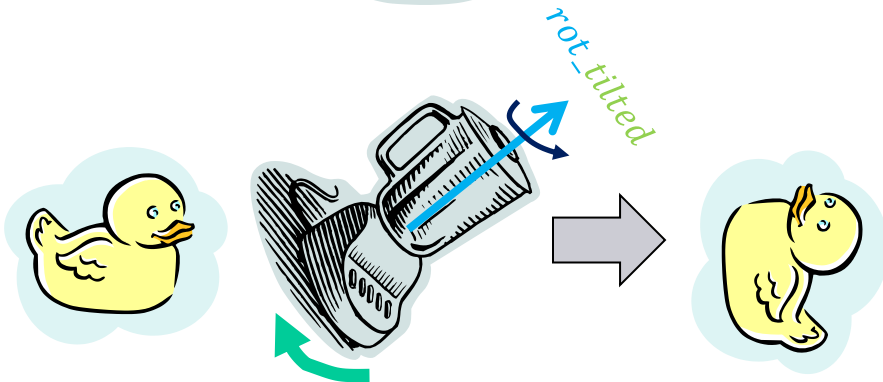
Be aware of all the details of the problem to be solved.

Rotating (Reorienting) a Rotation

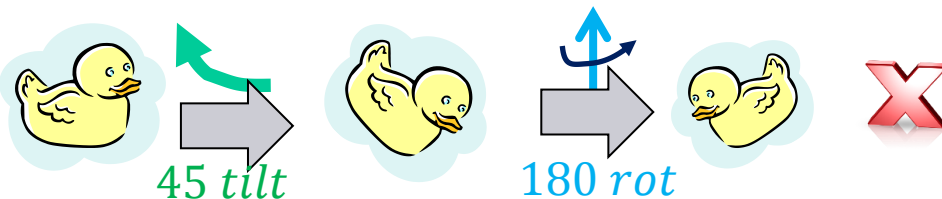
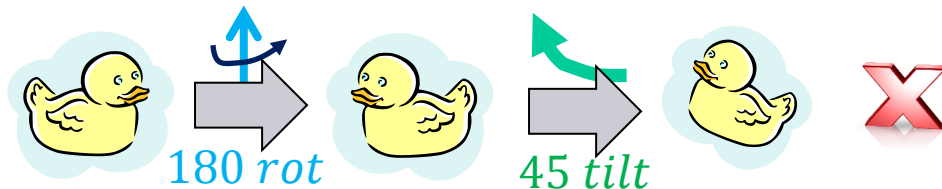
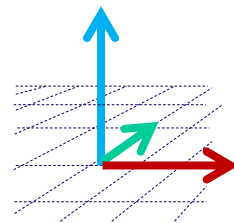
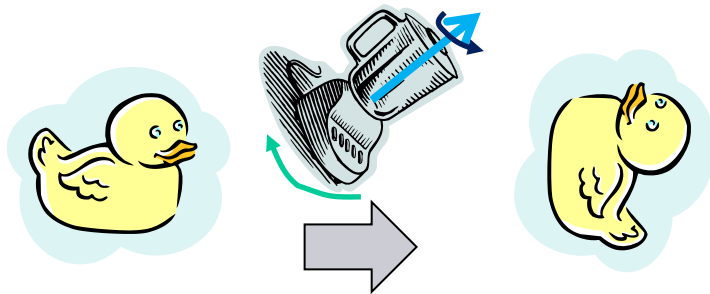
Machine that rotates an object by *rot* :



Apply 45°
Tilt to the
Machine:



Rotating a Rotation – *Its Different*

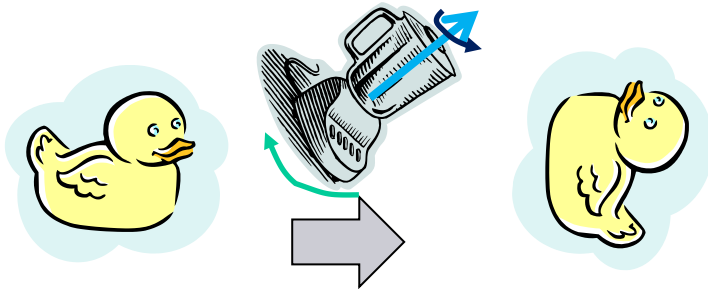


*Neither of these
multiplication
sequences work*



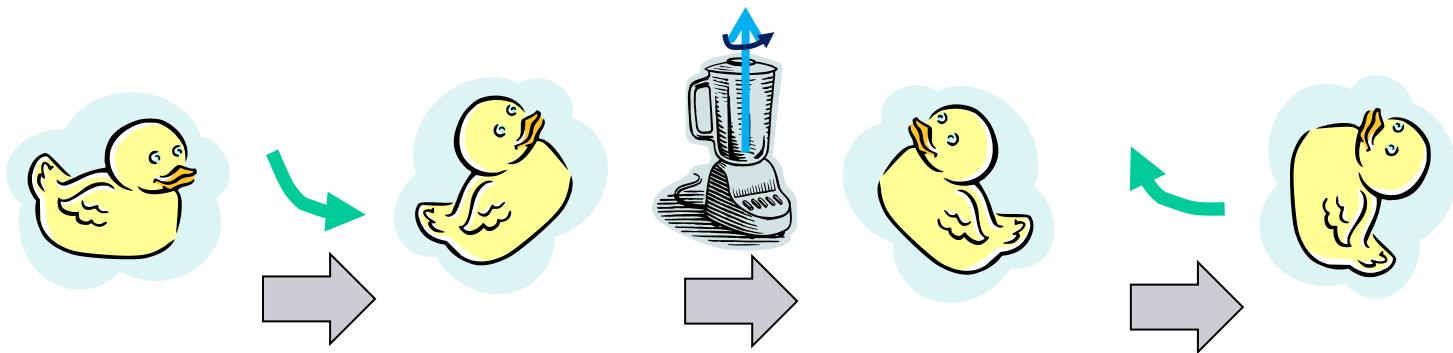
Rotating a Rotation: Decompose Steps

Tilted
Machine:



*How to calculate
what this new
rotation will be?*

Rotate duck into **and** back out of the machine's reference frame:



*Same
Result!*

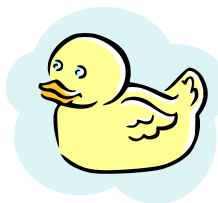


Rotating a Rotation: The Mathematics

U
P
R
I
G
H
T



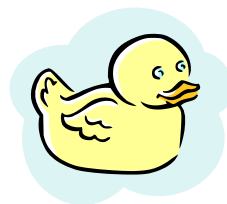
■ ■



=



*



*Initial
equation*

*new duck'
orientation*

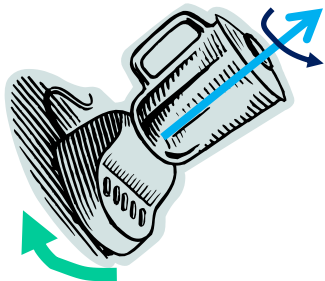
=

rot

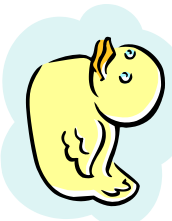
*

*duck
orientation*

T
I
L
T
E
D



■ ■



=



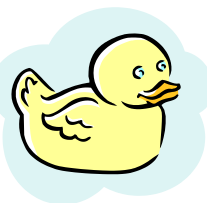
*



*



*



equation w tilt

new duck'' =

tilt

*

rot

*

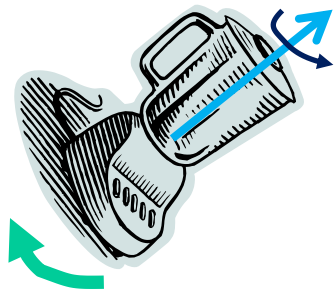
tilt⁻¹

*

duck

Rotating a Rotation: The Mathematics

Now drop the duck...



=



*



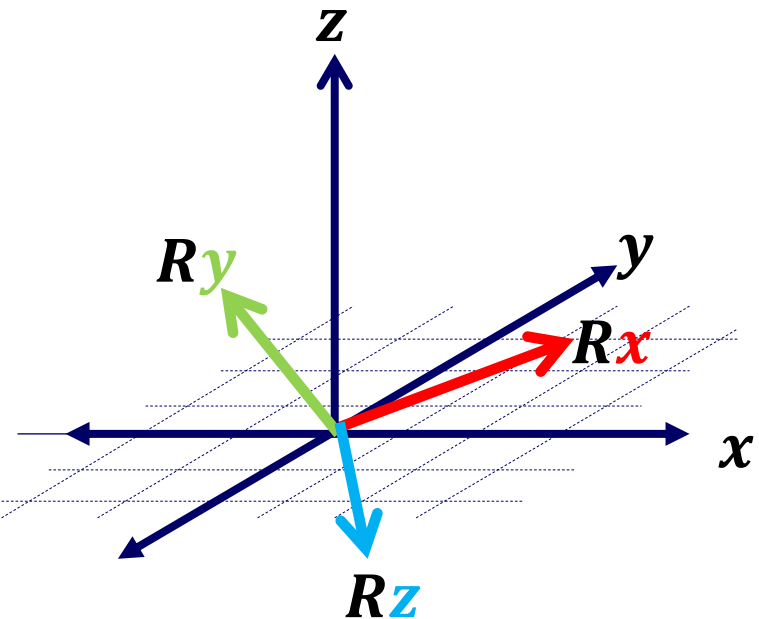
*



$$\text{rot}_{\text{tilted}} = \text{tilt} * \text{rot} * \text{tilt}^{-1}$$

Matrix & Axis Angle

3D Orientation / Rotation Matrix ***R***

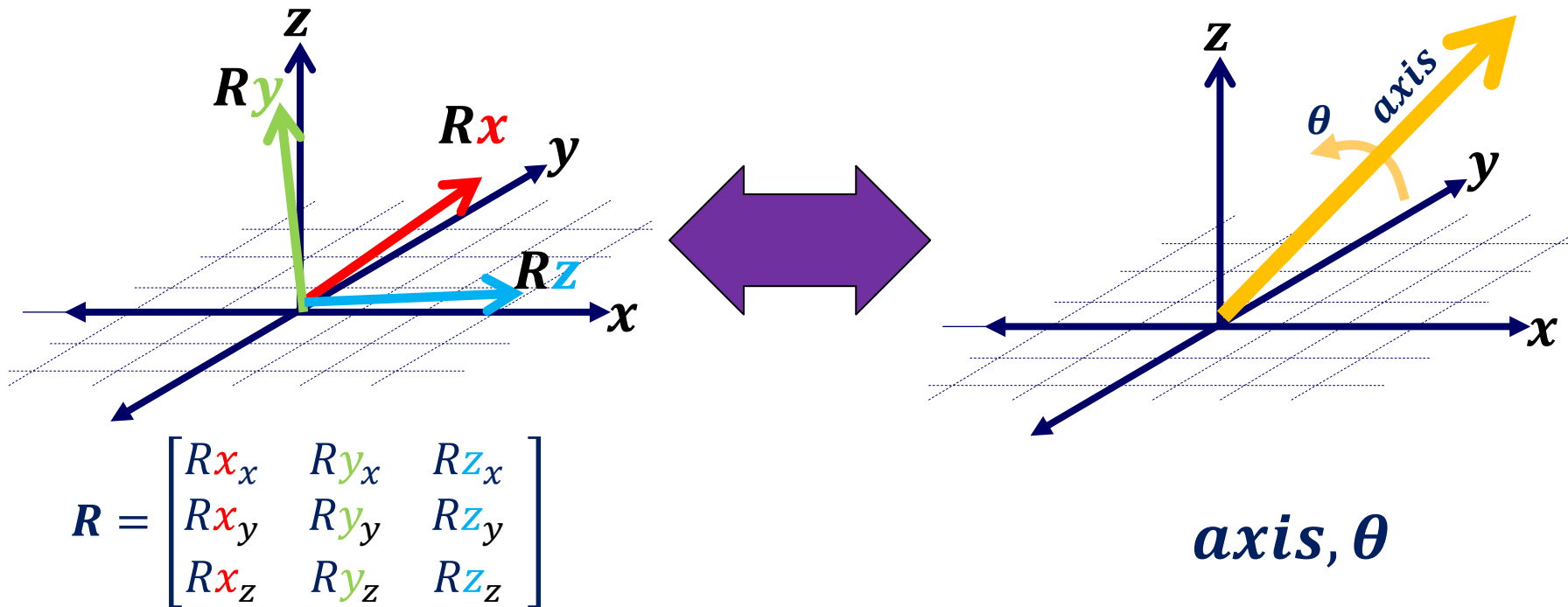


$$R = \begin{bmatrix} R\textcolor{red}{x}_x & R\textcolor{green}{y}_x & R\textcolor{blue}{z}_x \\ R\textcolor{red}{x}_y & R\textcolor{green}{y}_y & R\textcolor{blue}{z}_y \\ R\textcolor{red}{x}_z & R\textcolor{green}{y}_z & R\textcolor{blue}{z}_z \end{bmatrix}$$

General form of Rotation Matrix:

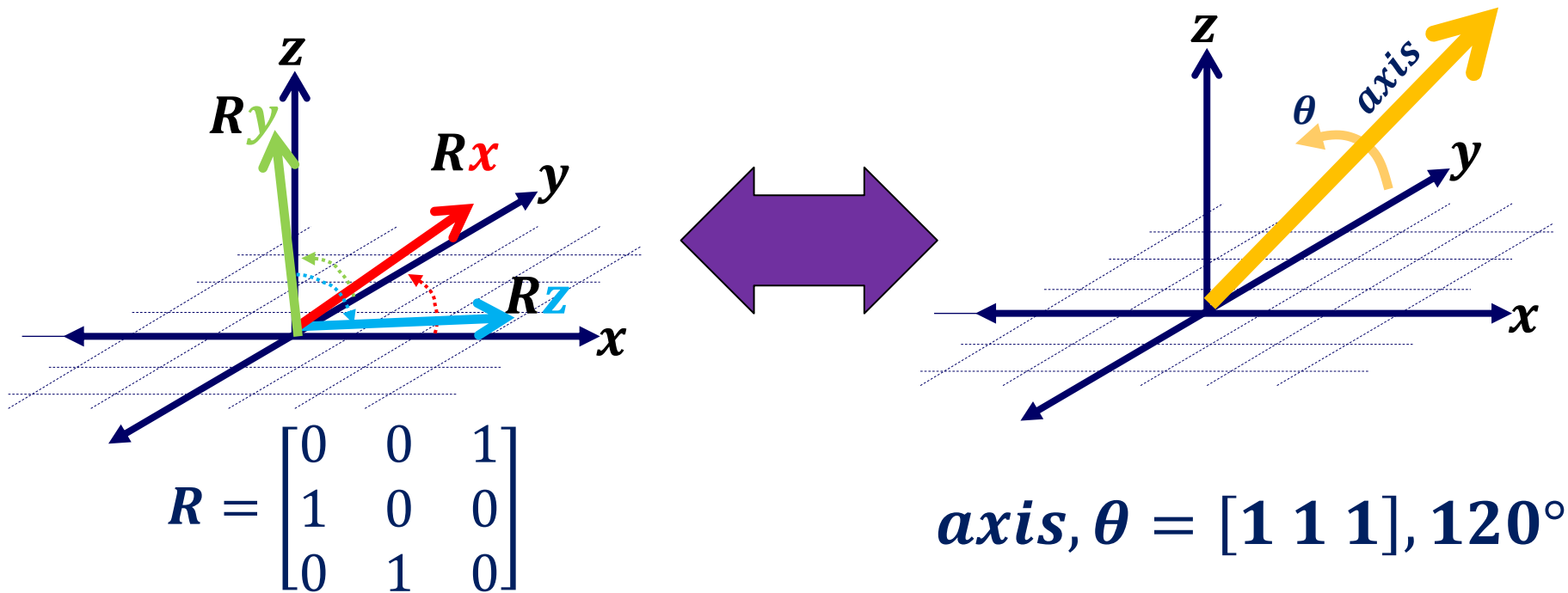
- Orthonormal basis: $R\textcolor{red}{x}$ $R\textcolor{green}{y}$ $R\textcolor{blue}{z}$
- $R\textcolor{blue}{z} = R\textcolor{red}{x} \times R\textcolor{green}{y}$ etc.
- $\text{Determinant}(R) = 1$
- $\text{Inverse}(R) = \text{Transpose}(R)$
- Has a corresponding axis of rotation

Rotation Matrix – Finding its Axis Angle



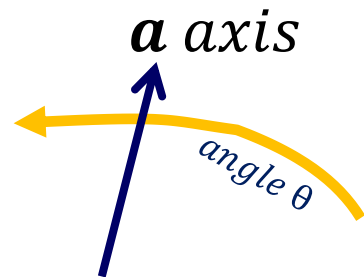
axis will be an eigenvector of R

Example of corresponding Matrix and Axis Angle



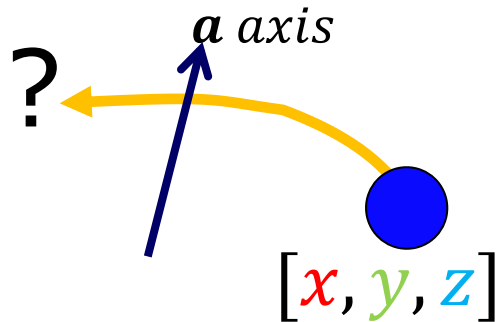
To check, verify: $axis == R * axis$

Matrix from general axis \mathbf{a} , angle θ



Matrix for \mathbf{a}, θ ?

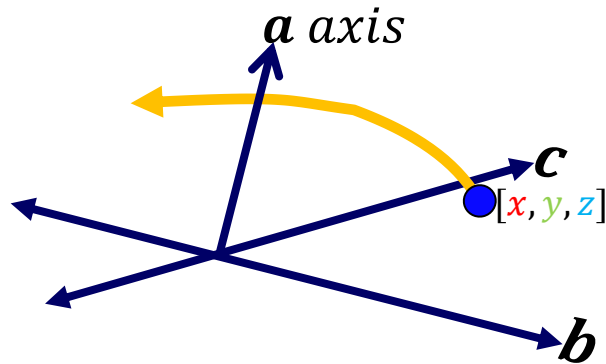
Matrix from general axis \mathbf{a} , angle θ



How would axis/angle rotate a point $[x, y, z]$?

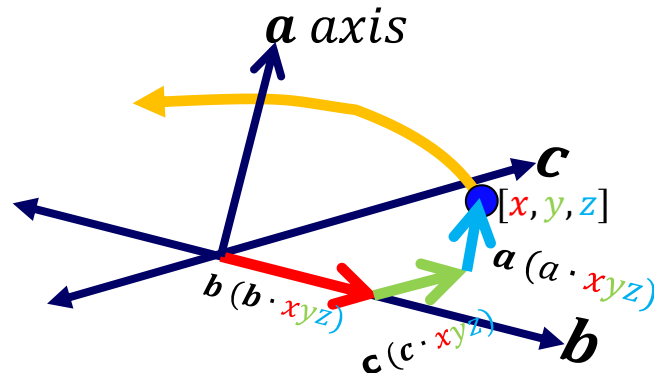
Matrix from general axis ***a***, angle θ

- Find ***b, c*** unit vecs ***a, b, c*** orthonormal
 $a = b \times c, \quad c = a \times b, \quad b = c \times a$



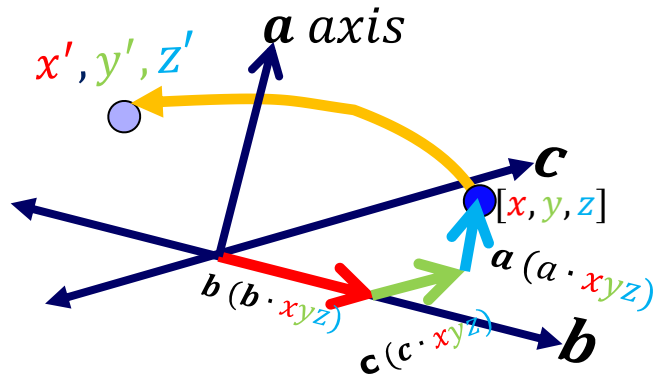
Matrix from general axis \mathbf{a} , angle θ

- Find \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c} unit vecs $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$ orthonormal
 $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}$, $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$, $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a}$
- Get $[xyz]$ as weighted sum of $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$



Matrix from general axis \mathbf{a} , angle θ

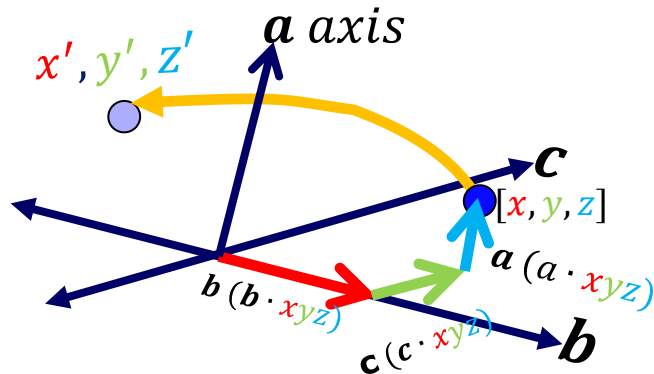
- Find \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c} unit vecs $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$ orthonormal
 $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}$, $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$, $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a}$
- Get $[xyz]$ as weighted sum of $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$
- Stuff along \mathbf{a} stays the same,
- Results along \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{c} based on $\sin\theta$ and $\cos\theta$ portions along \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{c}



$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{a} \left(\mathbf{a} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \right) + \mathbf{b} \left(\mathbf{b} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \cos \theta - \mathbf{c} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \sin \theta \right) + \mathbf{c} \left(\mathbf{b} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \sin \theta + \mathbf{c} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \cos \theta \right)$$

Matrix from general axis \mathbf{a} , angle θ

- Find \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c} unit vecs $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$ orthonormal
 $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}$, $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$, $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a}$
- Get $[xyz]$ as weighted sum of $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}$
- Stuff along \mathbf{a} stays the same,
- Results along \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{c} based on $\sin\theta$ and $\cos\theta$ portions along \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{c}



$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{a} \left(\mathbf{a} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \right) + \mathbf{b} \left(\mathbf{b} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \cos \theta - \mathbf{c} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \sin \theta \right) + \mathbf{c} \left(\mathbf{b} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \sin \theta + \mathbf{c} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \cos \theta \right)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix} = (\mathbf{a}\mathbf{a}^T + \mathbf{b}\mathbf{b}^T \cos \theta - \mathbf{b}\mathbf{c}^T \sin \theta + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{b}^T \sin \theta + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{c}^T \cos \theta) \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

*"still need method
for finding \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c} "*

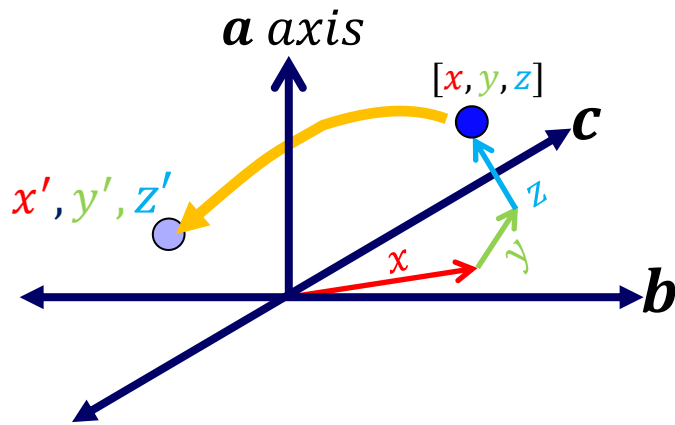
Matrix from general axis \mathbf{a} , angle θ

Alternatively (Equivalently):

Think of $[\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{a}]$ as a 3x3 basis.

- Move/rotate into \mathbf{abc} 's reference frame.
- Do spin on 'local' \mathbf{z} axis
- Rotate back out

$$\begin{bmatrix} x' \\ y' \\ z' \end{bmatrix} = [\mathbf{b} \ \mathbf{c} \ \mathbf{a}] \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{c} \\ \mathbf{a} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$



3x3 Rotation Matrix

$$= \begin{bmatrix} b_x & c_x & a_x \\ b_y & c_y & a_y \\ b_z & c_z & a_z \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_x & b_y & b_z \\ c_x & c_y & c_z \\ a_x & a_y & a_z \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

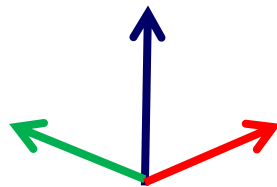
"ok, but this math is still not concise."

Challenges with the Space of Rotations

Matrix Disadvantages

Great for some systems (batch rendering), but not ideal for animation, gameplay, or physics code.

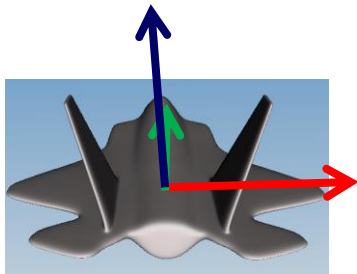
- Non-compact (9 floats for only 3DOF)
- Numerical Drift, non-orthonormal over time
- Getting meaningful information non-trivial?
 - Extracting an axis of rotation by eigenvector
- Interpolation between orientations (keyframes)



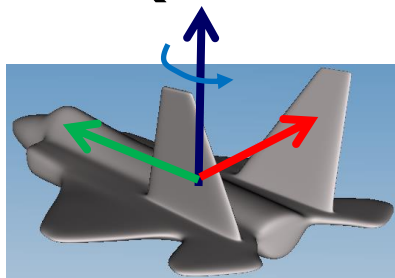
$$R = \begin{bmatrix} R\mathbf{x}_x & R\mathbf{y}_x & R\mathbf{z}_x \\ R\mathbf{x}_y & R\mathbf{y}_y & R\mathbf{z}_y \\ R\mathbf{x}_z & R\mathbf{y}_z & R\mathbf{z}_z \end{bmatrix}$$

Is there a better way to be working with rotations/orientations?

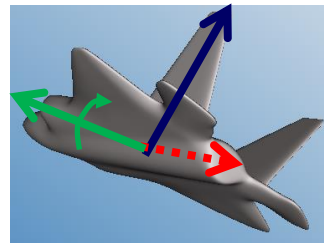
Yaw-Pitch-Roll (Euler angles)



$y, p, r = 0, 0, 0$



$45, 0, 0$

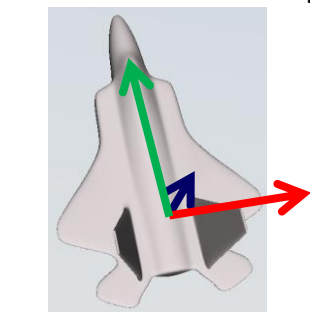


$45, 0, 45$

- Ordered sequence of rotations on 3 fixed main axes.
- Ideal representation for many game systems:
 - Standing NPC (yaw==heading)
 - Camera AI,
 - Helicopter flight.
- Convert to Matrix on the fly as necessary.

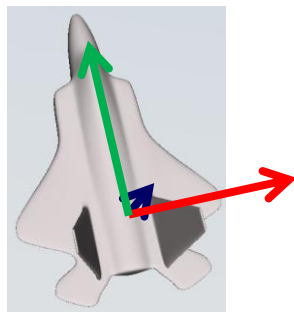
Yaw-Pitch-Roll – not ideal for general 3D

- Concatenating rotations: Done by matrix multiplication. Converting back to YPR? ☹️
- Smooth interpolation and comparing rotations. What's the angle between:



$[20 \ 80 \ -20]$

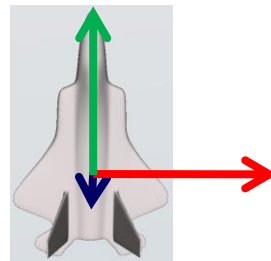
and



$[-60 \ 80 \ 60]$

Numerically distant, but
Orientations similar!

Consider pitch
upward to 90:



Could be:
 $[0 \ 90 \ 0]$ or
 $[45 \ 90 \ -45]$ or
 $[n \ 90 \ -n]$ (any n)

Angle Axis

Axis Angle has Potential:

- General 3D
- Compact (drift averse)
- Inversion and Interpolation easy (just modify angle)

Issues:

- Specifics of the encoding (angle as separate number or axis length?).
- Transforming points shouldn't be clumsy.
- Need a better/cleaner conversion to matrix.
- How can we "multiply" (combine) two Axis Angle rotations??? ...

Combining Angle Axis Rotations

It's Tricky ...

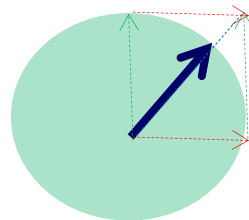
Small Angles:

Head easier
to visualize.

"I don't want a die
at a small angle. ☺"



$[1\ 0\ 0], 10^\circ$ then $[0\ 1\ 0], 10^\circ$

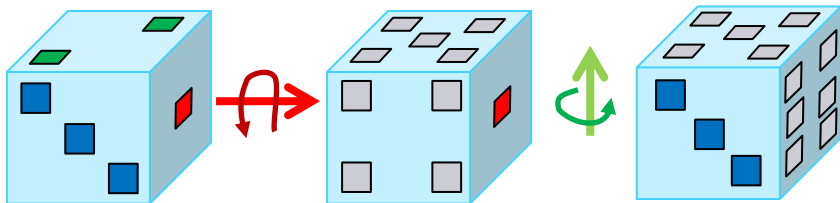


Tilt, Turn, No Roll.

"Result axis/angle
is almost like
vector addition on
the **xy** plane"

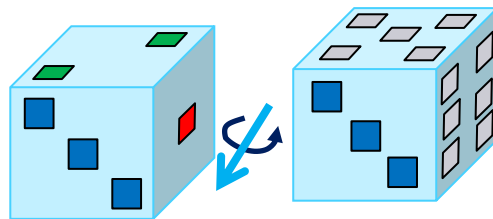
$\approx [1\ 1\ 0], 14^\circ$

Larger Angles:



$[100], 180^\circ$ then $[010], 180^\circ$

=

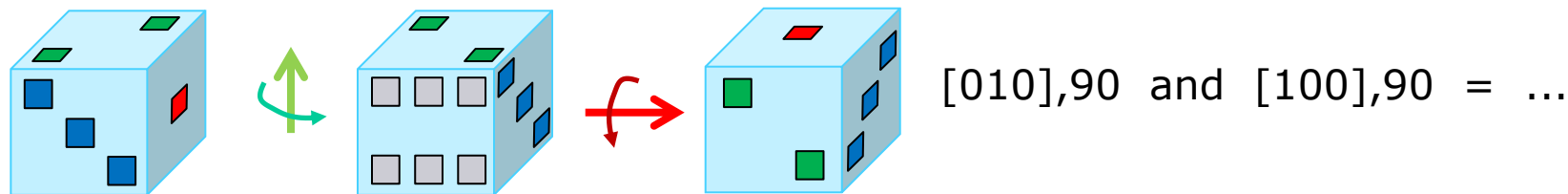
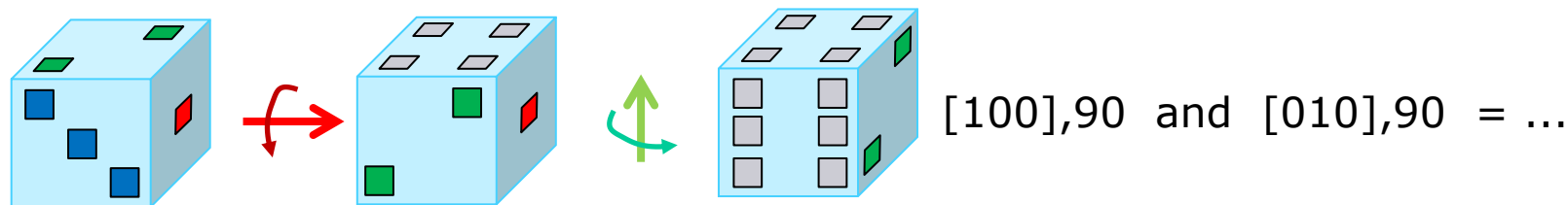


$[0\ 0\ 1], 180^\circ$

"Hmmm,
Combining
X and **Y**
somehow
make **Z**"

Combining Angle Axis Rotations

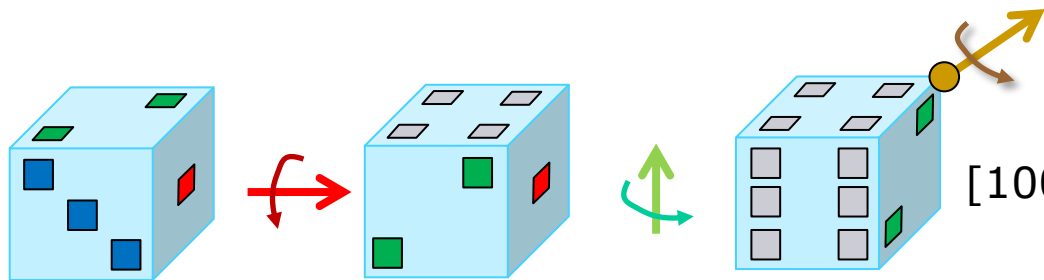
*It's Tricky
Because...*



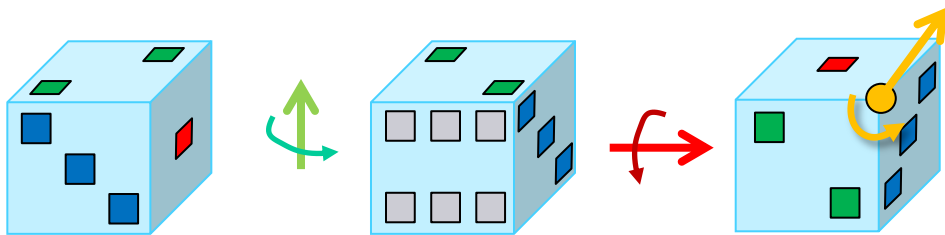
Order of rotations makes a difference...

Combining Angle Axis Rotations

*It's Tricky
Because
Rotations
are Tricky!*



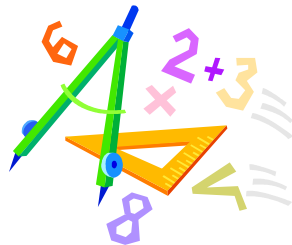
$$[100], 90 \text{ and } [010], 90 = \underline{[1 \ 1 \ -1], 120}$$



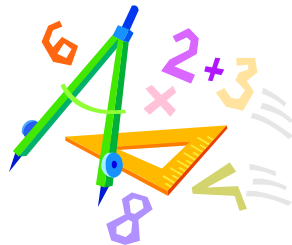
$$[010], 90 \text{ and } [100], 90 = \underline{[1 \ 1 \ 1], 120}$$

Yikes. Is there any mathematics wizardry that can deal with this?

Quaternions – Mathematics of Rotations



Quaternions – Mathematics of Rotations



- Practical and Efficient (get the job done). Provides the machinery your program uses for rotational operations.
- Industry-wide standard algebraic system for dealing with rotations in 3D. (existing code, popular engines). *You'll need this.*
- Geometric Algebra encompass (and surpass) quaternions.
 - Still worth studying quats (stepping stone)
- A bit abstract (4D and complex numbers). Best to think visually/spatially.

Quaternions – not too complex 😊

- Like complex numbers $a+bi$, but with 3 \perp sqrts of -1: i, j, k
- $ii=jj=kk=ijk=-1$, so $ij=k$, $ji=-k$, $jk=i$, $ki=j$
- Numbers of the form: $q = a+bi+cj+dk$ (math text notation)
- Isomorphic to Clifford Algebra R_{3+} : $q = a+b\mathbf{e}_{23}+c\mathbf{e}_{31}+d\mathbf{e}_{12}$
- In Practice: $q = xi+yj+zk+w$ (graphics/gamedev convention)
- Quaternion multiplication:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{ab} = & (+a_x b_w + a_y b_z - a_z b_y + a_w b_i) \mathbf{i} \\
 & + (-a_x b_z + a_y b_w + a_z b_x + a_w b_j) \mathbf{j} \\
 & + (+a_x b_y - a_y b_x + a_z b_w + a_w b_k) \mathbf{k} \\
 & + (-a_x b_x - a_y b_y - a_z b_z + a_w b_w)
 \end{aligned}$$

Connection to Rotations may not be obvious yet...

Quaternions as Bivector, Scalar $[\mathbf{v}, w]$

Equivalent to write quaternion as a bivector, scalar pair:

- Group the xyz elements into a 3D bivector \mathbf{v} alongside w .

Instead of: $[q_x, q_y, q_z, q_w]$, its now: $[\mathbf{q}_v, q_w]$

- Quaternion multiplication equivalent to:

$$\mathbf{ab} = [\mathbf{a}_v, a_w] * [\mathbf{b}_v, b_w] = \underbrace{[\mathbf{a}_v \times \mathbf{b}_v + \mathbf{a}_v b_w + a_w \mathbf{b}_v]}_{\text{Cross Product}}, \underbrace{-\mathbf{a}_v \cdot \mathbf{b}_v + a_w b_w}_{\text{Dot Product}}$$

some familiar operations

Unit Quaternions and Rotations

Use Quaternions on unit 4D hypersphere ($x^2+y^2+z^2+w^2 == 1$):

- rotation/orientation with axis **a** and angle θ :

$$\mathbf{q} = \left[\mathbf{a} \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right), \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \right]$$

- Length of bivector part proportional to sin of half of angle.
- Value of scalar part w keeps quaternion at unit length (or cos of same half angle).

May be easier to visualize just using the (3D) bivector **v** component.
But its not a regular (Euclidean) 3-space.

Unit Quaternions and Rotations

Double Coverage:

Rotation around axis **a** and angle θ would produce the same result as rotation around axis **-a** and angle $-\theta$.

Therefore, q and $-q$ represent the same rotation.

Inverse:

Rotation around axis **-a** and angle θ (or around **a** by $-\theta$) would give the opposite rotation. Since q is of unit length just use conjugate:

$$q^{-1} = \text{conj}(q) = [-x, -y, -z, w] = [-v, w] = \left[-\mathbf{a} \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right), \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \right]$$

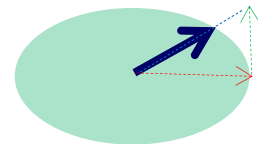
Examples Revisited with Quaternions:

Small Angles:

approx 10° on X
then 10° on Y



$$[0 \ 0.1 \ 0 \ 0.99] * [0.1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0.99] \approx [0.1 \ 0.1 \ -0.01 \ 0.99]$$



approx 15°
on $[1 \ 1 \ -1]$

Cross and dot Product near zero:

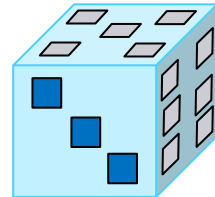
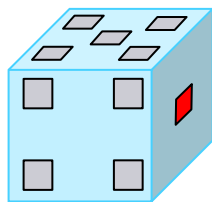
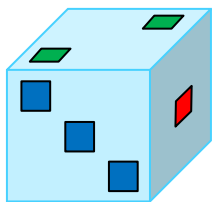
$$a \ b = [a_v \times b_v + a_v b_w + a_w b_v, -a_v \cdot b_v + a_w b_w]$$

Larger Angles:

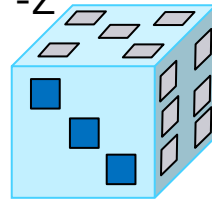
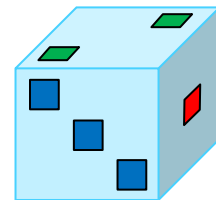
180 on X

180 on Y

180 on -Z



=



$$[1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]$$

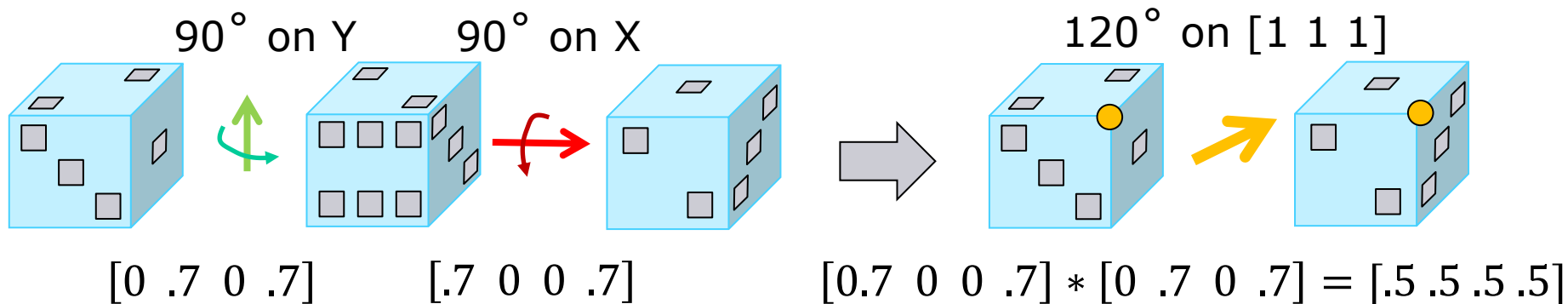
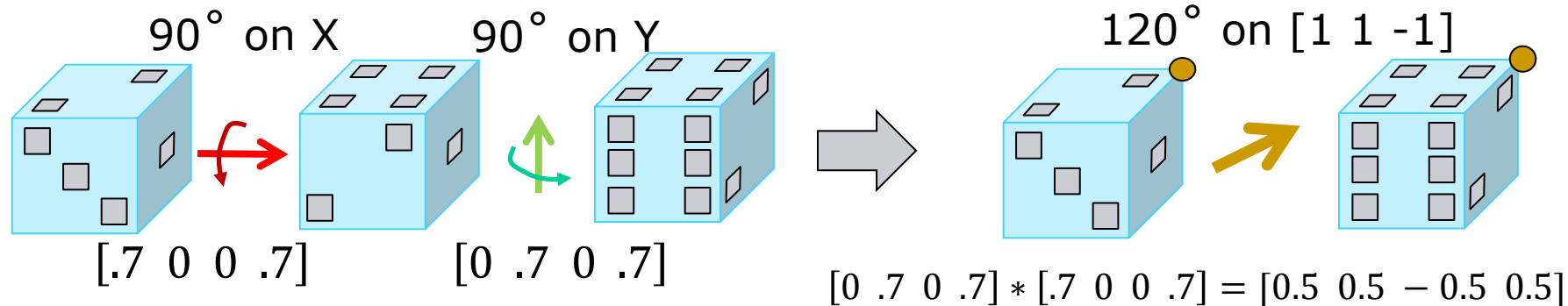
$$[0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0]$$

$$[0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0] * [1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0] = [0 \ 0 \ -1 \ 0]$$

$$[a_v \times b_v + a_v b_w + a_w b_v, -a_v \cdot b_v + a_w b_w] = \underbrace{[0 \ 1 \ 0] \times [1 \ 0 \ 0] + 0 + 0}_{\text{Only Cross Product Matters here}}, 0 + 0 = [0 \ 0 \ -1 \ 0]$$

Only Cross Product Matters here

Examples Revisited now with Quaternions:



Numerical values added just to see that the quaternion math indeed matches expectations.

Rotating Points/Vectors with Quaternions

Representation	Combine Rotations a, b	Rotate points or vectors (v)
Matrix:	$M_b M_a$	$M v$
Quaternion:	$q_b q_a$	$q v q^{-1}$

- Matrix multiplication applies to both rotating points/vectors and other matrices.
- Rotate a point or vector v by treating it as a quaternion $[v, 0]$ and multiply by rotation and conjugate on the left and right sides respectively. Or use quaternion-to-matrix conversion.

qvq^{-1}

just multiply
these three
4D numbers

$$qvq^{-1} = \left[\mathbf{a} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}, \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \right] [\mathbf{v}, 0] \left[-\mathbf{a} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}, \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \right]$$

$ab = [\mathbf{a}_v \times \mathbf{b}_v + \mathbf{a}_v b_w + a_w \mathbf{b}_v, -\mathbf{a}_v \cdot \mathbf{b}_v + a_w b_w]$
quaternion multiplication (bivector-scalar style)

$$= \left[\sin \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} + \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{v}, -\sin \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v} \right] \left[-\mathbf{a} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}, \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \right]$$

Not too bad
so far

$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a} = 0$

$$= \left[\sin \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} \times -\mathbf{a} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} + \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{v} \times -\mathbf{a} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} + \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} + \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{v} + -\mathbf{a} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} (-\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v}), -\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} + \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} + \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{a} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \right]$$

yikes!

cancel out

$$= \left[-\sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{a} + 2 \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} + \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{v} + \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{a}, 0 \right]$$

$$= \left[-\sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{a} + \sin \theta \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} + \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{v} + \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{a}, 0 \right]$$

use some
half angle
formulas

$$= \left[\cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{a}) - \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{a} + \sin \theta \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} + \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{a} + \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{a}, 0 \right]$$

$$\cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} - \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} = \cos \theta$$

$$\cos^2 + \sin^2 = 1$$

$$= [\cos \theta (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{a}) + \sin \theta (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v}) + (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{a}, 0]$$

after simplifying

qvq^{-1} : Rotating Points/Vectors

$$q = \left[\mathbf{a} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}, \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \right]$$

Three Orthogonal Vectors

Portion along \mathbf{a}
stays the same

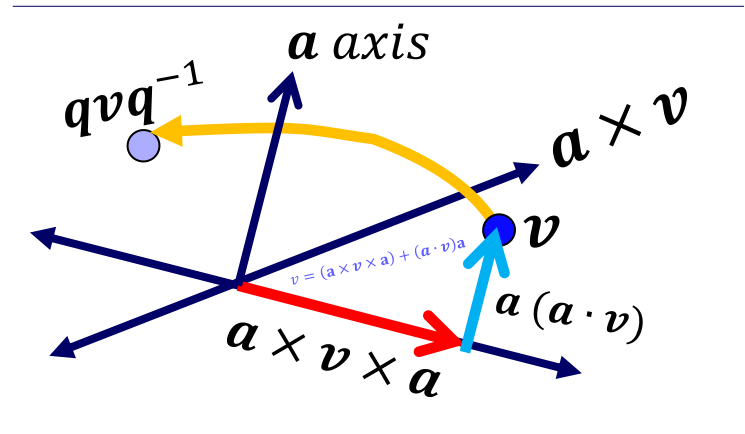
$$qvq^{-1} = [\cos \theta (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{a}) + \sin \theta (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v}) + (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v})\mathbf{a}, 0]$$

Quaternion
multiplication

qvq^{-1} transforms
 \mathbf{v} by rotation \mathbf{q}

sum weighted
by sin and cos

\mathbf{v} lies in plane of 2
of these basis vectors:
 $\mathbf{v} = (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{a}) + (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{v})\mathbf{a}$



Applications

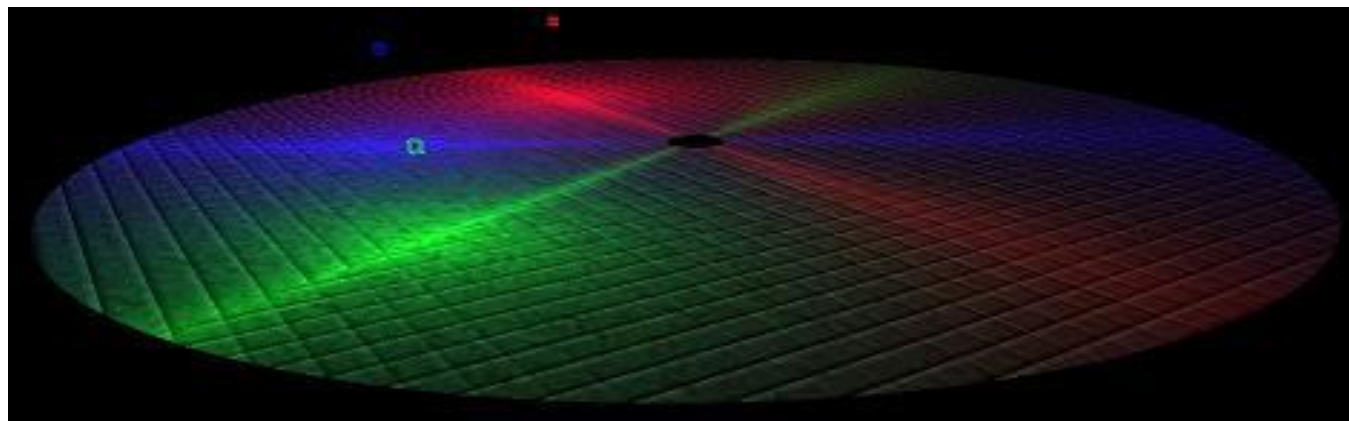
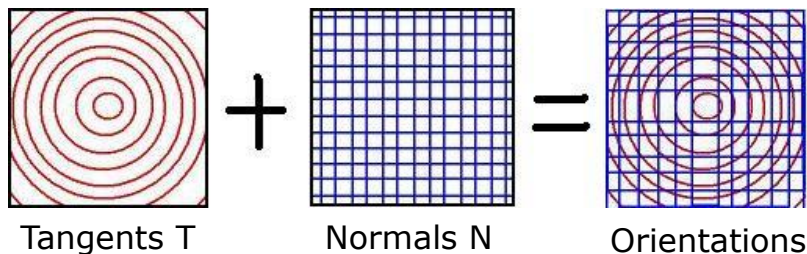
Quaternions can replace most Rotation Matrices

- Cameras or any general objects with position and orientation.
- Rigid Bodies - physics engines mostly use vec/quat pairs
- Vertex buffers instead of tangent,bitangent,normal can use:

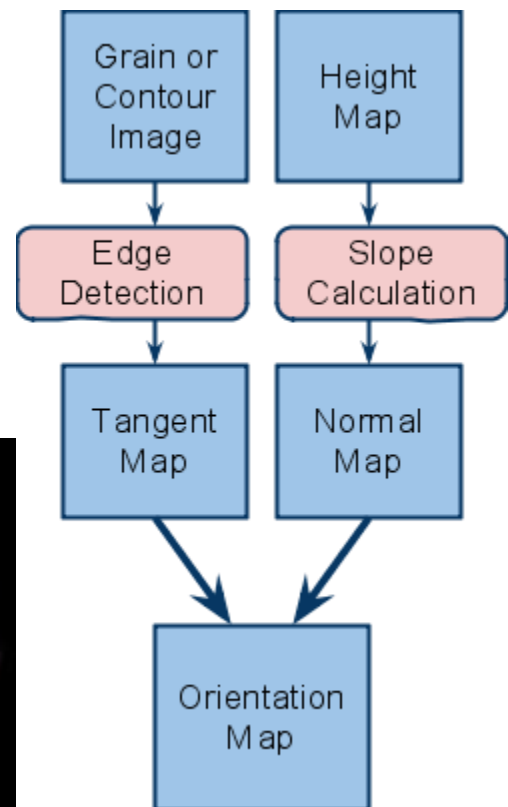
```
struct Vertex {  
    float3 position;    // location in mesh reference frame  
    float4 orientation; // quaternion tangent space basis  
    float2 texcoord;    // uv's  
    ...  
}
```

Orientation Map

- Extension of normalmap
- rgba encodes orientation.



Disc with specular ($T \cdot L$) and diffuse ($N \cdot L$)

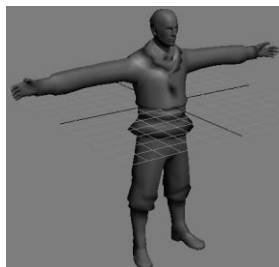


Disclaimer: just curiosity research, not sure how useful.

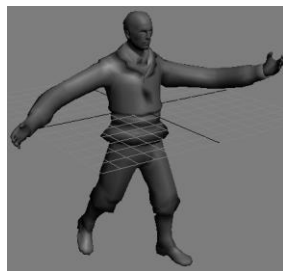
SLERP – Spherical Linear Interpolation

- Smooth transition between orientations q_0, q_1
 - Double Coverage Issue: Use $-q_1$ instead of q_1 if closer to q_0
- Normalized Lerp (nlerp) often sufficient
$$q_t = \text{normalize}(q_0(1 - t) + q_1(t))$$
- Used by animation systems (blend keyframes)

Resulting Skinned Animation



t=0

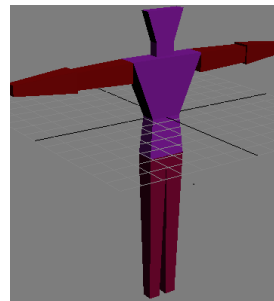


t=0.5

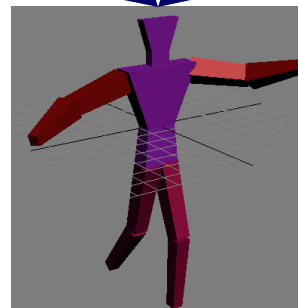
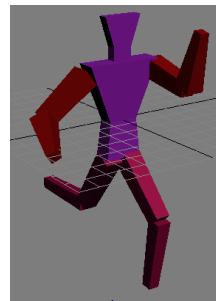


t=1

Key 0



Key 1



NLERP 0.5

Quats – *they do Addition too...*

Updating state to the next time step.

- Position: $p_{t+dt} = p_t + velocity * dt$
- Orientation (spin ω):

Could Build a Quat for Multiplication

$$s = \left[\frac{\omega}{\|\omega\|} \sin\left(\frac{\|\omega\| dt}{2}\right), \cos\left(\frac{\|\omega\| dt}{2}\right) \right]$$

$$q_{t+dt} = s * q_t$$



Proof it's the same:

$$\lim_{(\|\omega\| dt) \rightarrow 0} s \rightarrow \left[\frac{\omega}{2} dt, 1 \right]$$

$$s * q_t = [0001] * q_t + \left[\frac{\omega}{2} dt, 0 \right] * q_t$$

$$s * q_t = q_t + \left[\frac{\omega}{2}, 0 \right] * q_t dt$$

Or Add Derivative

$$q_{t+dt} = q_t + \frac{dq}{dt} dt$$

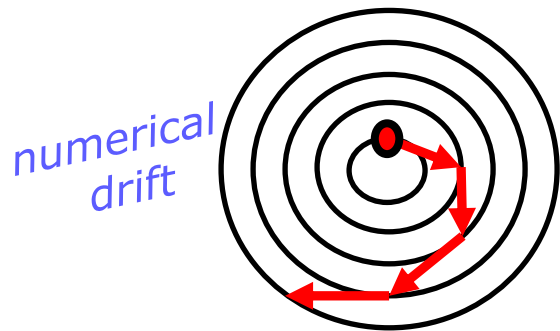
$$q_{t+dt} = q_t + \frac{\omega}{2} q_t dt$$



Ok but why...

Quat Application: Time Integration (no drift)

Spin ω_t is not constant!!



$$q_{t+dt} = q_t + \frac{\omega(q_t)}{2} * q_t * dt$$

Forward Euler 

only looks at starting spin

more quat additions

$$k_1 = \frac{\omega(q_t)}{2} * q_t$$

$$k_2 = \frac{\omega(q_t + k_1 * dt/2)}{2} * (q_t + k_1 * \frac{dt}{2})$$

$$k_3 = \frac{\omega(q_t + k_2 * dt/2)}{2} * (q_t + k_2 * \frac{dt}{2})$$

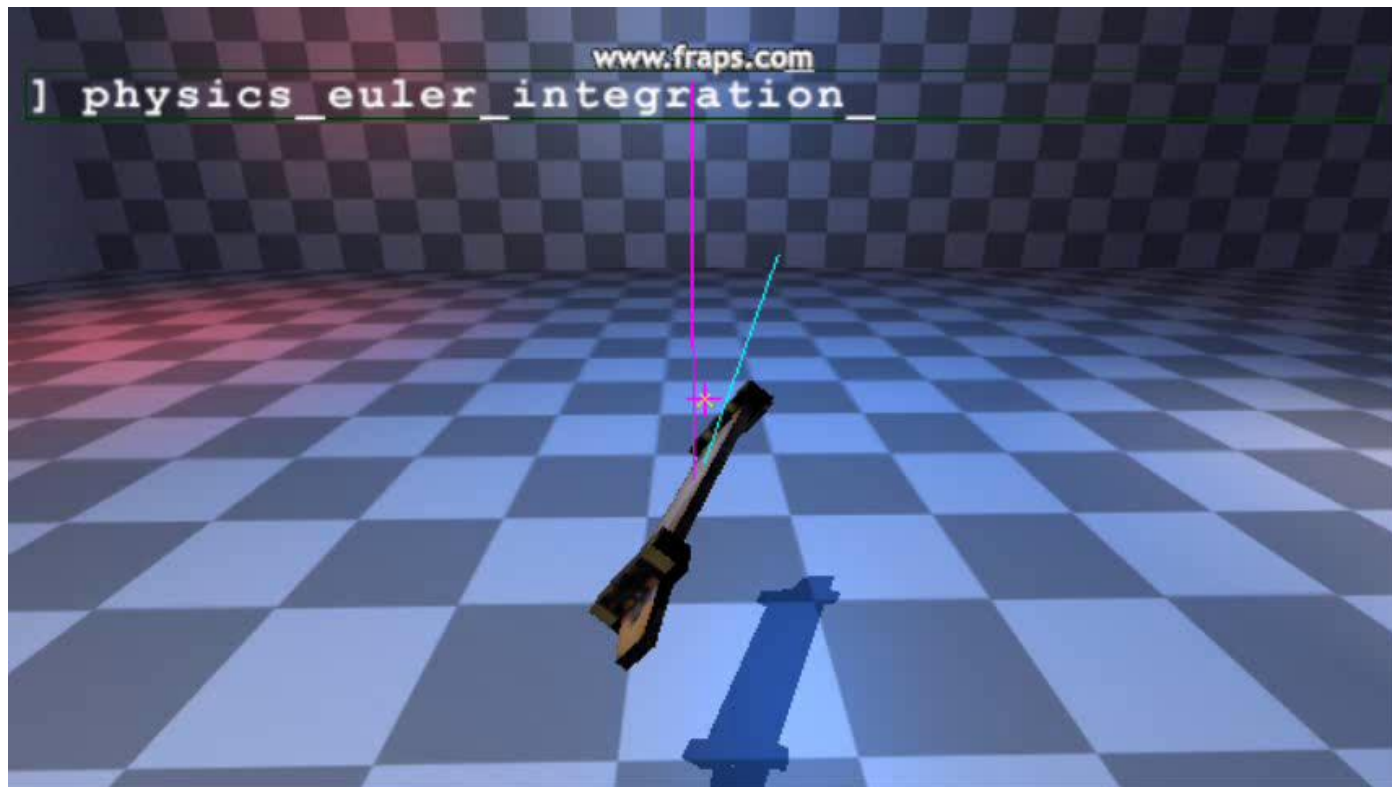
$$k_4 = \frac{\omega(q_t + k_3 * dt)}{2} * (q_t + k_3 * dt)$$

$$q_{t+dt} = q_t + k_1 * \frac{dt}{6} + k_2 * \frac{dt}{3} + k_3 * \frac{dt}{3} + k_4 * \frac{dt}{6}$$

Runge Kutta 

Takes samples over the timestep

Orientation Updates (Euler vs RK4)



Forward Euler:

- Spin drifts toward principle axis
- Energy gained

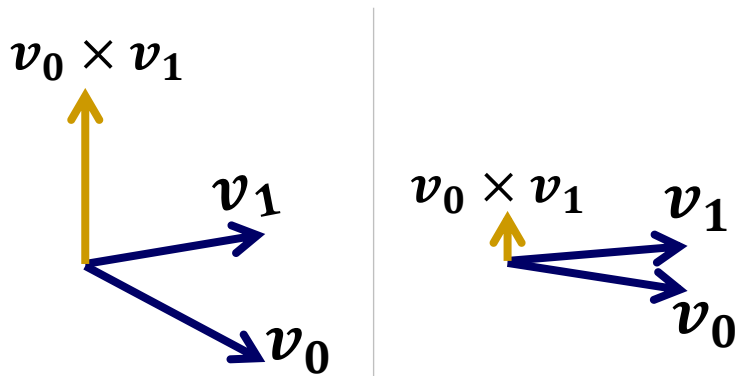
Runge Kutta

- Spin orbits as expected
- Energy stays constant

Watch GDC 2013 Math Tutorial for full explanation of inertia tensor, time integration, angular momentum, rk4, ...

Rotation that takes one direction v_0 to another v_1

Cross product to find axis a



When v_0 and v_1 get close,
 $a = v_0 \times v_1$ becomes small
 $d = v_0 \cdot v_1$ goes to 1.

Ignore $v_0 = -v_1$ case for now

What if
 $\|a\|$ was 0

Less stable
 when $d \sim 1$

$$q = \left[\frac{a}{\|a\|} \sin\left(\frac{\arccos(d)}{2}\right), \cos\left(\frac{\arccos(d)}{2}\right) \right] \quad \text{X}$$

using
 half
 angle
 formulas

$$q = \left[\frac{a}{\sqrt{2(1+d)}}, \left(\frac{\sqrt{2(1+d)}}{2}\right) \right] \quad \checkmark$$

GA style –
 geometric
 product
 produces
 rotation
 versor

$$\text{Let: } v_{mid} = \frac{v_0 + v_1}{\|v_0 + v_1\|}$$

$$q = [v_0 \times v_{mid}, v_0 \cdot v_{mid}] \quad \checkmark$$

Diagonalization of Symmetric Matrices

For symmetric matrix \mathbf{S} find \mathbf{D}, \mathbf{R} :

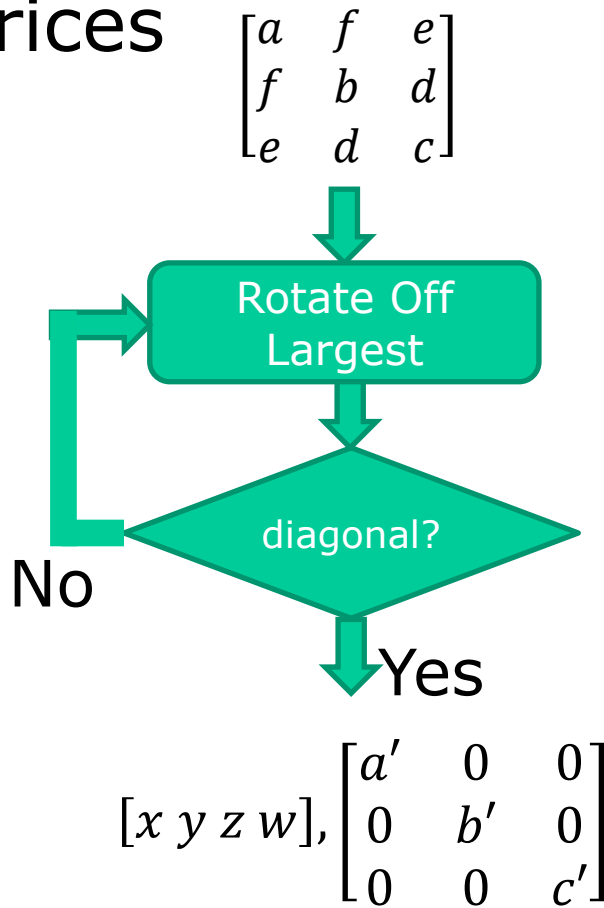
$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{R} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{R}^{-1}$$

- Iterative approach [Jacobi 1800s].
- Algorithm can accumulate directly into Matrix or a Quaternion (3D).

Eigenvalues are entries of diagonal part.

If not all equal, this may be interpreted as an orientation for the matrix in some contexts.

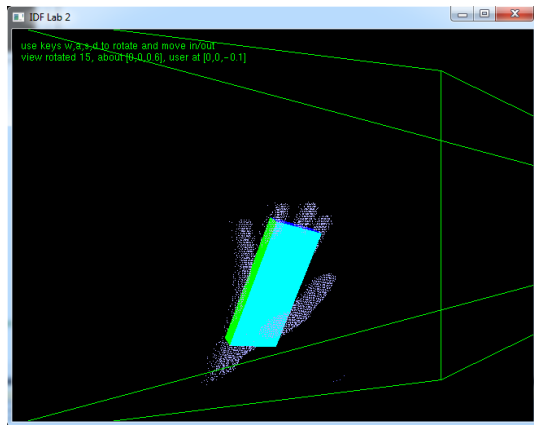
*"Orientations may show up
in new interesting places"*



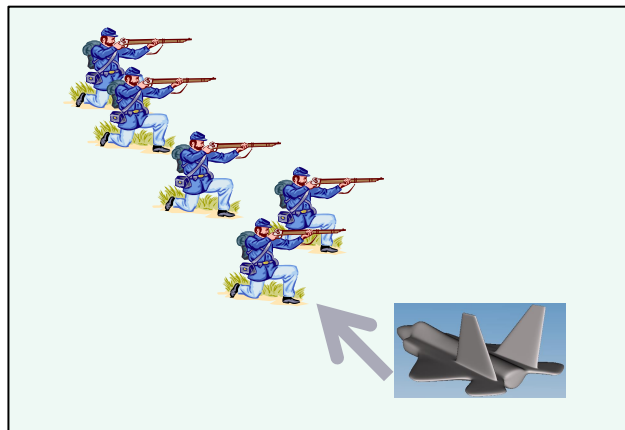
Orientation of a Point Cloud

- Compute covariance
- Diagonalize to get orientation.
- Permute by eigenvalues for long,med,short axes.

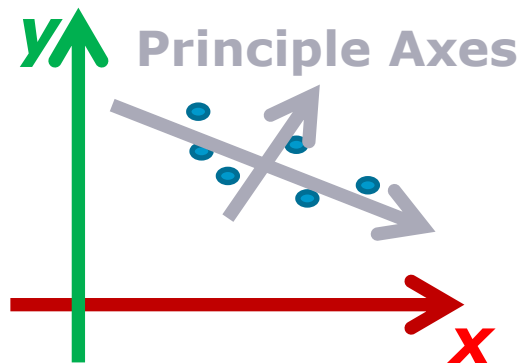
$$cov = \sum vv^T = \sum \begin{bmatrix} v_x^2 & v_x v_y & v_x v_z \\ v_y v_x & v_y^2 & v_y v_z \\ v_z v_x & v_z v_y & v_z^2 \end{bmatrix}$$



UI: Data from
Depth Sensor



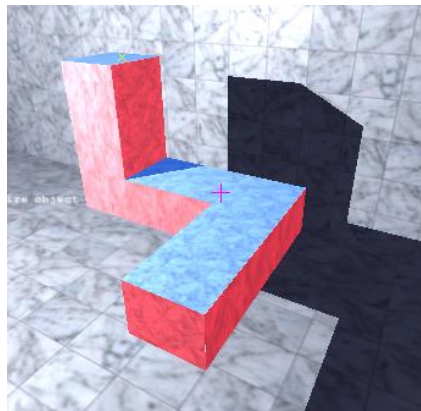
AI: Optimal
bombing run.



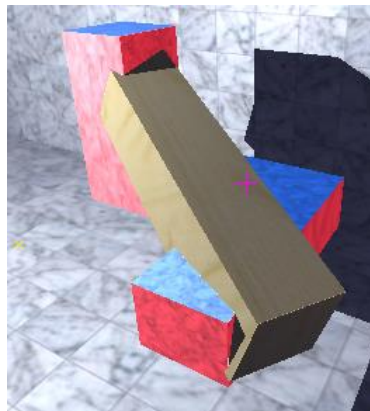
Visualize Inertia Properties

To debug physics behavior of rigid body:

- Diagonalize Inertia Tensor (symmetric matrix)
- Draw box over object with resulting orientation
- Eigenvalues are box dimensions



Irregular Shape



Inertia Overlay

Dual Quaternions

- Add a $\sqrt{0}$ or ε , $\varepsilon^2 = 0$
- $q = [xi, yj, zk, w, x'ie, y'je, z'ke, w'e]$
- Put half translation \mathbf{t} in dual part

$$\mathbf{t}'' = [0, 0, 0, 1, \quad tx/2, ty/2, tz/2, 0]$$
- Extend rotation \mathbf{r} to dual quat

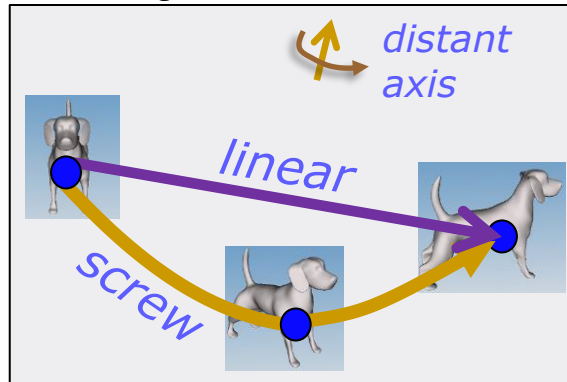
$$\mathbf{r}'' = [\mathbf{r}, \quad 0, 0, 0, 0]$$
- Multiply trans and rot dual quaternions

$$\mathbf{q}'' = \mathbf{t}'' \mathbf{r}''$$

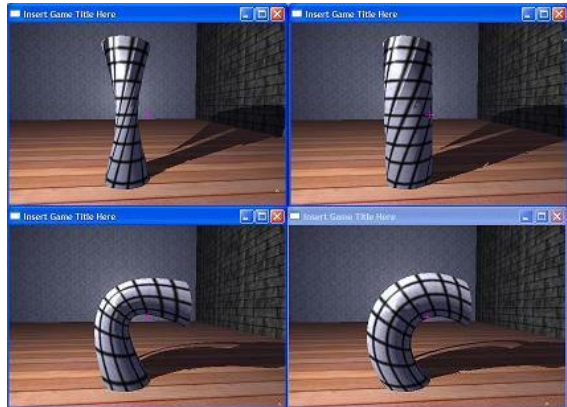
Rotation and Trans in a single 8D number \mathbf{q}''

To be continued (in Gino's IK session) ...

Dual Quat Screw Motion



S
L
E
R
P



S
K
I
N
N
I
N
G

Matrix

Dual Quat

Working with Rotations - Conclusion

- Rotations can be tricky (*don't blame math*)
- Matrices work
- Quaternions work, more concise, more uses
- Be Aware, Be Precise:
 - who to multiply
 - what order to use
 - when to invert

Now go and do cool 3D stuff ☺

Q & A

*Raise your hand
if you have any
questions now!*

